

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/896,116

Examiner

Charles W. Stewart, Jr.

Applicant(s)

SEINO, TAKEO

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed April 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Stephen D. Meier
Primary Examiner

Reason for Allowance

The following is a statement of reasons for allowable subject matter:

The inclusion of the claimed invention is not found in the prior art.

The different is considered patentable over the prior art of record, reflects an improvement in the field of endeavor. Claims 1-8, 10 and 18-21, recites the limitation of at least at a same position as a position, at which the ink cartridge is to be mounted to the recording apparatus and at least one plug element, provided in a regions corresponding to an ink supply port of the ink cartridge, for sealing an ink supply needle that supplies ink to an ink jet recording head wherein said maintenance cartridge is a dummy cartridge that does not store fluid or supply fluid to the recording apparatus. Claims 9 and 22-23, recites the limitation of wherein the outward form distinguishes the maintenance cartridge from an ink cartridge, wherein the maintenance cartridge does not store fluid or supply fluid to the recording apparatus. Claims 11 and 24-25, recites the limitation of wherein when the control system detects, based on the data read from the memory device of the maintenance cartridge, that the maintenance cartridge is attached to the recording apparatus, the control system executes a substitute printing operation using ink in the ink cartridge or ink cartridge mounted to the recording apparatus. Claims 12-17 and 26-29, recites the limitation of at least one maintenance cartridge mounted to the recording apparatus, and provided with at least one plug element corresponding in location to the at least one ink supply port of the ink cartridge, wherein the at least one plug element seals the at least one ink supply needle, wherein the at least one

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maintenance cartridge does not fluid or supply fluid to the recording head.

Claims 30-32, recites the limitation of a recording head and an ink supply passage providing a fluid connection to the recording head; and a plug element that seals the ink supply passage that supplies ink to the recording head wherein the body is incapable of holding fluid or supplying fluid to the recording head.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable."


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Charles Stewart, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-2154. The Examiner can normally be reached on Full time.

Charles Stewart, Jr.



July 14, 2004



Stephen D. Meier
Primary Examiner